



Massachusetts HIV/AIDS Data Fact Sheet

Who is currently living with HIV/AIDS?

November 2007

Overview

Since the beginning of the epidemic, the number of people living with HIV/AIDS in Massachusetts has increased every year. In the past eight years, the number of people living with HIV/AIDS reported to the HIV/AIDS Surveillance Program increased by 35%.

Among those currently known to be living with HIV/AIDS in Massachusetts, there is considerable diversity by gender, race/ethnicity and other demographic characteristics. For example, while over half of males living with HIV/AIDS are white non-Hispanic (52%), the largest proportion of females living with HIV/AIDS is black non-Hispanic (41%). While nearly half (48%) of males living with HIV/AIDS were exposed to HIV infection through male-to-male sex, 28% of females were exposed through injection drug use and 32% were exposed through heterosexual sex (with partners with known risk and HIV status). Exposure resulting in HIV infection also varies by race/ethnicity. The majority of white (non-Hispanic) individuals were reported to have been exposed to HIV infection through male-to-male sex, Hispanic individuals through injection drug use and black (non-Hispanic) individuals through presumed heterosexual sex with partners of unknown risk and HIV status (presumed heterosexual).

The profile of people living with HIV/AIDS also varies by geography. For example, the Western and Central Health Service Regions (HSR) have larger proportions of females compared to other regions and a higher proportion of people exposed to HIV through injection drug use. The Boston, Metro West and Southeast regions have higher proportions of males exposed to HIV through male-to-male sex.

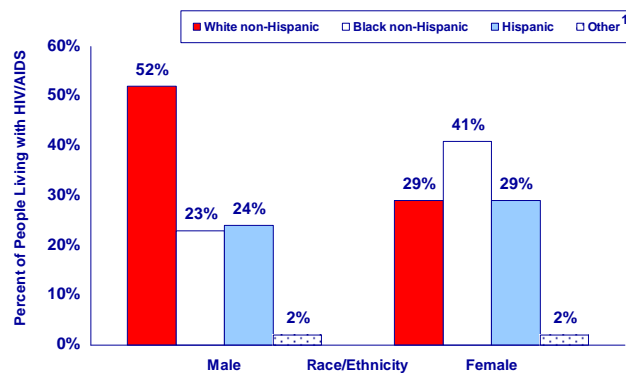
The following provides a summary of people known to be living with HIV/AIDS on November 1, 2007¹ and describes this population in more depth.

¹ Please note that previous editions of the Epidemiologic Profile presented people living with HIV/AIDS as of December 31 whereas this edition presents people living with HIV/AIDS as of November 1 due to the timing of this release. Future editions will continue to present people living with HIV/AIDS as of December 31.

Gender and Race/Ethnicity

- Seventy-one percent of people living with HIV/AIDS in Massachusetts are male and 29% are female.
- Forty-five percent of people living with HIV/AIDS in Massachusetts are white (non-Hispanic), 28% are black (non-Hispanic), 25% are Hispanic, 1% are Asian/Pacific Islander, and less than 1% are American Indian/Alaska Native. Black (non-Hispanic) and Hispanic people each make up 6% of the total Massachusetts population.

Figure 1. People Living with HIV/AIDS on November 1, 2007 by Gender and Race/Ethnicity: MA



¹ Other include Asian/Pacific Islander and American Indian/Alaska Native
Data Source: MDPH HIV/AIDS Surveillance Program, Data as of 11/1/07

- Among **males** living with HIV/AIDS, 52% are white (non-Hispanic), 23% are black (non-Hispanic) and 24% are Hispanic.
- Among **females** living with HIV/AIDS, 29% are white (non-Hispanic), 41% are black (non-Hispanic) and 29% are Hispanic.

Place of Birth, Race/Ethnicity and Gender

- Nineteen percent of people living with HIV/AIDS were born outside the US, 12% were born in Puerto Rico or another US Dependency and 69% were born in the US.

For detailed data tables and technical notes see Appendix

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- Among people living with HIV/AIDS who are Asian/Pacific Islander, 77% were born outside the US, compared to 40% of black (non-Hispanic), 19% of Hispanic and 5% of white (non-Hispanic) people.
- Twenty-eight percent of females living with HIV/AIDS were born outside the US, compared to 16% of males.

Current Age

- On November 1, 2007, less than 1% of people living with HIV/AIDS were under 13 years old, 2% were 13-24 years old, 3% were 25-29 years old, 6% were 30-34 years old, 13% were 35-39 years old, 22% were 40-44 years old, 22% were 45-49 years old, and 31% were 50 years old or above.

Gender and Exposure Mode

- Male-to-male sex and injection drug use are the leading reported exposure risks for HIV infection among all people living with HIV/AIDS, accounting for 34% and 25% of all exposures, respectively.
- For **males**, male-to-male sex is the predominant exposure mode (48%), followed by injection drug use (24%).
- For **females**, heterosexual sex (with partners with known risk and/or HIV status) and presumed heterosexual sex with partners of unknown risk and HIV status (presumed heterosexual) account for the most frequently reported exposure modes at 32% and 29%, respectively.

Race/Ethnicity and Exposure Mode

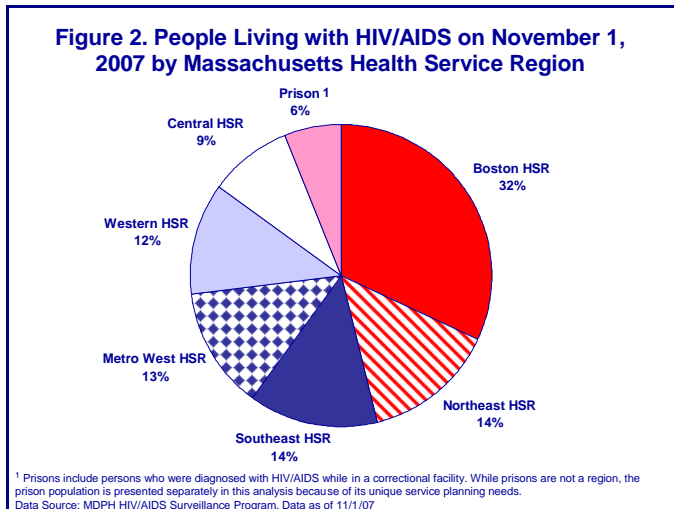
- Among **white (non-Hispanic) people** living with HIV/AIDS, male-to-male sex is the most frequently reported exposure mode, accounting for 55% of exposures.
- Presumed heterosexual sex with partners with unknown risk and HIV status (presumed heterosexual) (32%) is the leading risk for HIV infection among **black (non-Hispanic) people** living with HIV/AIDS.

- Among **Hispanic people** living with HIV/AIDS, the predominant risk for HIV infection is injection drug use, which accounts for 39% of exposures.
- Among **Asian/Pacific Islanders** living with HIV/AIDS, the predominant risk for HIV infection is male-to-male sex, accounting for 38% of exposures.

Race/Ethnicity and Exposure Mode by Gender

- Among **white (non-Hispanic) males**, male-to-male sex is the primary reported risk for HIV infection, accounting for 68% of exposures.
- Among **black (non-Hispanic) males**, exposure mode is more evenly distributed, with injection drug use and male-to-male sex each accounting for 25% of exposures, and presumed heterosexual sex with partners with unknown risk and HIV status (presumed heterosexual) comprising 23%.
- Among **Hispanic males**, injection drug use is the leading reported risk for HIV infection, accounting for 44% of exposures.
- While the predominant exposure mode among **white (non-Hispanic) females** living with HIV/AIDS is injection drug use (48%), the predominant exposure mode among **black (non-Hispanic) females** is presumed heterosexual sex with partners of unknown risk and HIV status (presumed heterosexual) (43%) and among **Hispanic females** is heterosexual sex with partners with known risk and HIV status (43%).

Distribution by Health Service Region (HSR)



- While 32% of people living with HIV/AIDS were living in the Boston Health Service Region at the time of report, 12% of all Massachusetts residents were living there in 2000, according to the US Census.

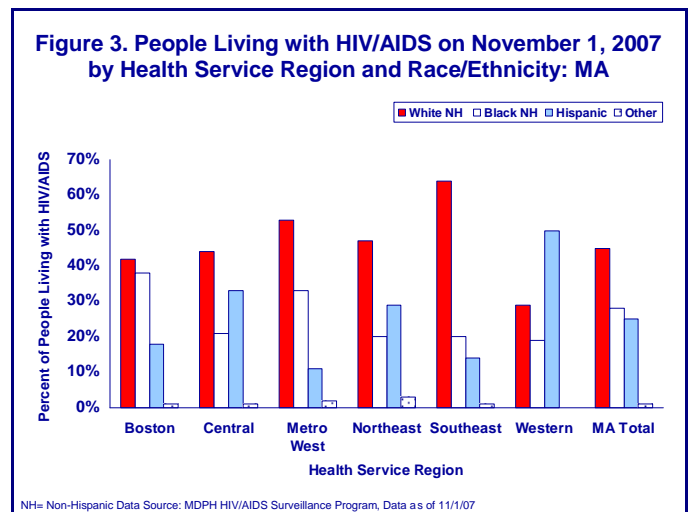
Distribution by Gender and Health Service Region (HSR)

- The Central and Western regions have a higher proportion of females among all those living with HIV/AIDS compared with other regions, both at 38%.
- The Boston region has the highest proportion of males among all those living with HIV/AIDS at 77%.

Distribution by Race/Ethnicity and Health Service Region (HSR)

- White (non-Hispanic) individuals** account for the largest proportion of people living with HIV/AIDS across race/ethnicity in all regions except the Western HSR, where Hispanic individuals are the largest group.
- The Boston HSR has the highest proportion (38%) of **black (non-Hispanic) individuals** among those living with HIV/AIDS, followed by the Metro West HSR (33%).

- The Western HSR has the highest proportion (50%) of **Hispanic individuals** among those living with HIV/AIDS, followed by the Central HSR (33%).



Distribution by Exposure mode and Health Service Region (HSR)

- Male-to-male sex is the exposure mode reported for the largest proportion of people living with HIV/AIDS in the Boston (46%), Metro West (38%), Southeast (37%), and Northeast (30%) regions.
- Injection drug use is the exposure mode reported for the largest proportion of people living with HIV/AIDS in the Central (34%) and Western (33%) regions.

Data Source:

HIV/AIDS Case Data: Massachusetts Department of Public Health, HIV/AIDS Surveillance System, all data as of 11/1/07